



SAINT PAUL VISTA PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Mission and Program Goals

AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) is a member of the AmeriCorps family of national service programs, administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service. VISTA members are charged with erasing poverty by performing “indirect service” that increases the capacity of their host organizations. VISTA members are provided with a modest living allowance and health benefits to support their full-time, full-year commitment to combating poverty.

VISTA members work to build permanent infrastructure in organizations to help them more effectively bring individuals and communities out of poverty. VISTA members are prohibited from engaging in direct service, focusing instead on creating systemic change.

Summary of Member Terms, Conditions and Benefits

VISTA members receive a living allowance (\$11,232 annually, paid bi-weekly), approved personal and sick leave, medical benefits, training, and a choice of an education award (\$5,550) or an end-of-year cash stipend (\$1,200) in exchange for committing to a year of full-time service. VISTA members serve full-time, and must be available for evening and weekend work. **Accordingly, they are not permitted to hold other part-time jobs.** Additionally, VISTA members do not perform direct service activities, act in a staff capacity, or perform duties that would otherwise be performed by employed workers, and which would supplant the hiring of or result in the displacement of employed workers. VISTAs cannot engage in religious instruction, worship, proselytizing, or other religious activity or engage in electoral activities, lobbying, or participate in demonstrations.

Saint Paul VISTA Program Goals

Saint Paul VISTA members work to close the education opportunity gap in Saint Paul and support the education goals of the City of Saint Paul. Specifically, the Saint Paul VISTA Program seeks to achieve two goals:

1. Improve the quality and depth of learning opportunities available to youth in Saint Paul.
2. Increase access to high-quality learning opportunities for all Saint Paul children, especially at-risk and vulnerable youth.

The City of Saint Paul has laid out the following education goals:

1. 75% of students who participate in out-of-school-time activities will spend three or more hours per week in programs that build their skills as learners, navigators and contributors (as defined by Saint Paul’s Framework for Youth Success).
2. Elementary and middle school students who regularly participate in high-quality out-of-school-time programs for two years will demonstrate 3 to 5 percentage point gains on their math and reading MCA proficiency scores.
3. 85% of middle school students who regularly participate in high-quality out-of-school-time programs self-report improvement in work habits and engagement.

VISTA members contribute to these goals by building capacity at their host organizations, focusing on projects in four core program areas:

1. Expanding early childhood education and literacy programs so that all children enter school ready to learn.

2. Enhancing formal and informal learning opportunities for Saint Paul students, including before, during and after school.
3. Informing and preparing students for post-secondary educational and professional opportunities.
4. Engaging parents, families and the community to support learning and youth success.

Training

- Before beginning service, all VISTAs will participate in a 4-day Pre-Service Orientation. This will tentatively be Tuesday, August 2nd through Friday, August 5th, 2011 (dates subject to change).
- VISTA members will then participate in a Saint Paul VISTA member Orientation on Monday, August 8th and Tuesday, August 9th 2011.
- Each service site will provide its VISTA member with an on-site orientation.
- Saint Paul VISTA members participate in bi-monthly member meetings/trainings with the VISTA program.

2011-2012 Saint Paul VISTA Program Sites

American Indian Family Center www.aifc.net	Minnesota Children's Museum www.mcm.org
Big Brothers Big Sisters (2 VISTA members) www.bigstwincities.org	Saint Paul Music Academy (North End/Franklin) northend.spps.org
Breakthrough Saint Paul www.breakthroughsaintpaul.org	National Youth Leadership Council www.nylc.org
Community Action Partnership www.capr.org	Rock Star Supply Co. www.rockstarsupplyco.org
Community Design Center www.comdesignctrmn.org	Saint Paul EMS Academy www.ehs.net/emsacademy
East Side Arts Council www.eastsideartscouncil.org	Science Museum of Minnesota www.smm.org
Everybody Wins! MN www.everybodywinsmn.org	Teatro del Pueblo www.teatrodelpueblo.org
Genesys Works www.genesysworks.org/twincities	Mayor's Office (VISTA Leader) www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=395
Jackson Elementary jackson.spps.org	West 7 th Community Center www.west7th.org
Lao Family www.laofamily.org	YMCA www.ymcatwincities.org
Maxfield Elementary maxfield.spps.org	YouthCARE www.youthcaremn.org

Saint Paul VISTA Program

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Saint Paul VISTA Program Website: www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=395